

**ABSTRACT**

A rope locking device comprises a lock housing, guide housing, first and second shoe, means for suspending the first and second shoes, a handle, and cams operably connecting the handle to one of the shoes. The guide housing is positioned within the lock housing and translatably connected to the lock housing such that the guide housing can only move in the vertical direction. The first and a second shoes are contained within the guide housing such that the rope passes between them. The first shoe is suspended between the top and bottom of the guide housing, such that the first shoe can move vertically. The second shoe is suspended between the top and bottom of the guide housing such that the second shoe can translate vertically and horizontally. The handle has a locked and unlocked position. The first and second cam are pivotally mounted on the lock housing, the handle connected to the first cam, and the first and second cam operably connected to each other so that the rotations of the cams are equal. The cams are operably connected to the second shoe such that moving the handle to the locked position causes the second shoe to translate towards the first shoe without rotation. The rope lock also comprises an automatic closing means comprising a guide means that causes the second shoe to close more tightly against the first shoe when a load is placed on the rope after the lock has been manually closed.